the devices, said computer program comprising the steps of:

acquiring the transfer information;

causing a user to select a desired transfer path from the acquired transfer information;

receiving image data by controlling an input device represented by the selected transfer information on the basis of the selected transfer information; and

transmitting the received image data to an output device represented by the selected transfer information on the basis of the selected transfer information.

32. The medium according to claim 31, wherein

in said receiving step, the selected transfer information is transmitted to the input device in order to control the input device, and

in said transmitting step, the selected transfer information is transmitted to the input device in order to control the output device.

33. The medium according to claim 31, further comprising announcing step of announcing, to a network, device information containing information representing that, in said receiving step, the input device is controlled as an active device and information representing that in said transmitting step, the output device as an active device.

34. The medium according to claim 31, wherein the transfer information contains a protocol used to transfer the data, a data format of the data to be transferred, and an address representing a destination to which the data is to be transferred.

35. A computer readable medium storing a computer program for executing image input/output processing on the basis of information that describes a combination of a plurality of devices and information that describes characteristics of transfer control between the devices, said computer program comprising the step of:

causing a user to select a desired transfer path;

acquiring transfer information corresponding to the selected transfer path;

inputting image data on the basis of the acquired transfer information; and

transmitting the input image data to an external device represented by the acquired transfer information on the basis of the acquired transfer information.

36. The medium according to claim 35, wherein in said transmitting step, the input image data is transmitted to a proxy device represented by the acquired transfer information, and

said proxy device transfers the received image data to an output device represented by the acquired transfer information in accordance with a request from the output device.

37. The medium according to claim 35, wherein in said transmitting step, the input image data is transmitted to a proxy device represented by the acquired transfer information, and

said proxy device transfers the received image data by controlling an output device represented by the acquired transfer information in accordance with the acquired transfer information.

38. The medium according to claim 35, wherein in said transmitting step, the acquired transfer information is transmitted to the external device.

39. The medium according to claim 35, wherein the transfer information contains a protocol used to transfer the data, a data format of the data to be transferred, and an address representing a destination to which the data is to be transferred.

40. A computer readable medium storing a computer program for executing image input/output processing on the basis of transfer information containing

information that describes a transfer destination of image data and information that describes a data format of the image data to be transferred, said computer program comprising the steps of:

acquiring the transfer information;

receiving the image data from a first external device through a network;

converting the received image data into a data format represented by the acquired transfer information; and

transmitting the converted image data to the transfer destination represented by the acquired transfer information.

41. The medium according to claim 40, further comprising announcing step of announcing, to the network, information representing a data format receivable in said reception step and information representing a data format transmittable in said transmitting step.

42. The medium according to claim 40, wherein, in said converting step, at least one of conversion of the data format, conversion of an image resolution, and conversion of an image depth is performed.

43. The medium according to claim 40, wherein, in

said converting step, at least one of image trimming, image enlargement, image reduction, image deformation, image edge extraction, and image color conversion is performed.

44. The medium according to claim 40, wherein, in said converting step, at least one of conversion of the image data to coded data by encoding processing such as character recognition, conversion of the image data to a structured image format by image region separation processing and encoding processing, and conversion of coded data to the image data by rasterization image processing is performed.

45. The medium according to claim 40, wherein, in said converting step, conversion of a data compression scheme or conversion of a data compression ratio is performed.

46. A computer executable program for executing image input/output processing on the basis of information that describes a combination of a plurality of devices and information that describes characteristics of transfer control between the devices, said program comprising the steps of:

acquiring the transfer information;

causing a user to select a desired transfer path

from the acquired transfer information;

receiving image data by controlling an input device represented by the selected transfer information on the basis of the selected transfer information; and

transmitting the received image data to an output device represented by the selected transfer information on the basis of the selected transfer information.

47. A computer executable program for executing image input/output processing on the basis of information that describes a combination of a plurality of devices and information that describes characteristics of transfer control between the devices, said program comprising the step of:

causing a user to select a desired transfer path;

acquiring transfer information corresponding to the selected transfer path;

inputting image data on the basis of the acquired transfer information; and

transmitting the input image data to an external device represented by the acquired transfer information on the basis of the acquired transfer information.

48. A computer executable program for executing image input/output processing on the basis of transfer information containing information that describes a transfer destination of image data and information that

describes a data format of the image data to be transferred, said program comprising the steps of:

acquiring the transfer information;

receiving the image data from a first external device through a network;

converting the received image data into a data format represented by the acquired transfer information; and

transmitting the converted image data to the transfer destination represented by theacquired transfer information.